

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0020] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Sliding piston assembly 98 comprises a ~~compressor~~ compression valve assembly 112, a rebound valve assembly 114 and a piston 116. Compression valve assembly 112 includes a valve plate 120 biased against an annular land 122 defined by housing 96 by a spring 124 to define a first compression bleed valve assembly. Valve plate 120 defines a restriction hole 126 through which a needle 128 defined by piston 116 extends to define a second compression bleed valve assembly. The design for restriction hole 126 and needle 128 and the strength of spring 124 determines the performance of compression bleed valve assembly 112. Rebound valve assembly 114 includes a valve plate 130 biased against an annular land 132 defined by a retainer 134 by a spring 136 to define a first rebound bleed valve assembly. Retainer 134 is secured to housing 96 by threaded engagement, press fitting or other means known in the art. Valve plate 130 defines a restriction hole 138 through which a needle 140 defined by piston 116 extends to define a second rebound valve assembly. The design for restriction hole 138 and needle 140 and the strength of spring 136 determines the performance of rebound valve assembly 114.